

## **S/U Grade Policy SP2020**

Approved by Faculty Senate: March 26, 2020

**Guiding principle:** Minimize harm to students.

### **Withdrawals and Transcripts**

The deadline to withdraw from a class is also extended until April 21, 2020 at 5:00 pm Central time. This applies to both **undergraduate** and **graduate** students.

All student transcripts will be modified as followed to provide an adequate context about the disruption caused by the Spring 2020 global health crisis: *Semester disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic.*

### **Undergraduate S/U Grading, Spring 2020:**

Faculty, exhibiting maximum flexibility and compassion, and without sacrificing integrity, will provide letter grades for the semester. We will extend the undergraduate S/U deadline to April 21, 2020 at 5:00 pm Central time. Students will have the substantial portion of their grades in-hand and can then decide how to approach the final/final projects. The [Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading eForm](#) is available online.

The S/U policy does not apply to any component of the major or minor. Should an undergraduate student wish to take an S/U grade in a major/minor class, they may file a [CAPS petition to convert to S/U after the deadline](#) but should consider the potential consequences very carefully. Petitions for classes in programs that have licensure and/or accreditation requirements may be submitted, but those petitions are unlikely to be approved.

***Note:*** *We are monitoring the Federal government's stance on VA benefits and Federal financial aid very closely. We will update you prior to the new deadlines regarding the consequences of choosing S/U or W. **Students should consult with their academic advisor before making any decisions about taking a class S/U or withdrawing from a class.***

### **Summary: Undergraduate Policy**

- All courses will be graded with letter grades
- Undergraduate students can choose to make their non-major/minor courses S/U for the Spring 2020 semester
  - This decision can be made until April 21, 2020 at 5pm.

- **Note:** if students have opted *for* an S/U in a graded class and wish to revert to the graded option, they may do so using eForms until the April 21 deadline.
- S/U will not be factored into the GPA; however, these courses *will* count towards earned semester hours
- Students may elect to take multiple classes S/U
- The course withdrawal date is also extended until April 21, 2020 at 5pm.
- S or I grades (and W) will not affect students “good standing” at Valparaiso University
  - S, I, and W will not, for Spring 2020, trigger suspension for students already on academic probation
  - **Note:** Professional colleges and licensure programs must have the authority to make decisions concerning probation/suspension that comply with the standards and requirements of accreditors and external boards. *Deans in those areas will have full discretion and oversight to make decisions regarding probation and suspension.*

### **Summary: Undergraduate Process**

- It is strongly recommended that students consult their advisors before requesting either an S/U grade or a W from a class
- Requests for S/U grading should be made via the eForms system Students may petition CAPS to convert a major/minor class to S/U, but be advised that a successful petition is unlikely in the case of classes for professional colleges/programs with licensure and/or accreditation requirements.
- Valparaiso University will include a transcript note on all academic records, regardless of grading basis, indicating the extraordinary circumstances of the global public health emergency during Spring 2020.

### **Summary: Graduate School**

- The deadline to withdraw from a class is extended to April 21, 2020

### **Additional considerations:**

1. By Valpo policy, an undergraduate grade of “C-” or higher is considered an S. Faculty should be clear about the threshold for a C- in their class. As specified in the course catalog:
  - a. Course credit hours with grades of S do count towards graduation but are not counted in computing the GPA.

- b. Course credit hours with grades of U do not count towards graduation and are not counted in computing the GPA.
- 2. There may be uncertainty and stress associated with making the decision to take a grade or opt for S/U - it may be difficult for students to anticipate potential consequences. We have addressed as many of these as possible (GPA, probation, major/minor, calculation of good standing) and will continue to monitor the federal guidance on this subject. As more information becomes available, we will provide it to students, advisors, and faculty.